

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land, thereby forming a die;

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from a the slot of a the die to said web;~~said slot being formed between a first block and a second block which are contacted to each other, ends of said first and second blocks having a first lip land and a second lip land which are flat and confronted to said web, a step being formed between said first lip land and said second lip land~~

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is t when said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and

second blocks are assembled in an environment with an ambient temperature in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first block is disposed downstream from said second block in a feeding direction of said web, and said first lip land is nearer to said web than said second lip land.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first block and said second block are integrally combined to each other, after said back of said first block is loaded on a is attached to the surface of said base with a plate member sandwiched sandwiched therebetween said back and said standard surface, after said back of said second block is loaded on a standard surface of said base, and after positions of said first lip land and said second lip land are adjusted.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said backs of said first block and said second block are fixed or temporarily fixed to said base.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first and second blocks are fixed at two positions to said ~~fixer~~ base with bolts.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said two positions are apart at least 5 cm from each other.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first block and said second block are pressed to said base when ~~in~~ while adjusting positions of said first lip land and said second lip land.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a height of said step is measured with an optical microscope, a step measuring machine of contact type, or a laser displacement meter which ~~are~~ is movable in three dimensions.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land, thereby forming a die;

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from a the slot of a the die to said web;

~~A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a temperature of said coating solution is set to  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$  when in applying said coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and second blocks are assembled while water whose temperature is from in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  is supplied inside of said die said slot, when in combining said first and second blocks.~~

12. (currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 5, for~~  
applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

providing a first block, a second block, and a base, the first and second blocks comprising first and second flat lip lands, respectively;

attaching both the first block and second block to a surface of the base with positions of the first and second lip land adjusted with respect to one another to form a slot therebetween with a

step formed between the first lip land and the second lip land,  
thereby forming a die;

feeding said web continuously so that the first and second lip  
lands are confronted to the web; and

discharging said coating solution from a the slot of a the die  
to said web;

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is set to  $t^{\circ}\text{C}$   
when ~~in applying~~ said coating solution is discharged on said web,  
and the first and second blocks are assembled with a ribbon heater  
is wound around said first and second blocks to keep a  
temperature of said ribbon heater ~~to~~ in a range of  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  -  
 $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  ~~when in combining said first and second blocks,~~

wherein a temperature of said coating solution is  $t$  when said  
coating solution is discharged on said web, and the first and  
second blocks are assembled in an environment with an ambient  
temperature in a range of from  $(t-5)^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $(t+5)^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further  
comprising:

measuring a height of said step with an optical microscope, a  
step measuring machine of contact type, or a laser displacement  
meter which ~~are~~ is movable in three dimensions, after combining  
said first block and said second block.